



Friday 5th January 2024

ST MARY'S NEWS

The latest news from St Mary's CE VC First School

Note from Mr Homer

Happy new year! I hope that everybody had an enjoyable Christmas and managed to make the most of the time with your children. We have been amazed by how well the children have settled back into school routines considering we started back the day after New Year's Day!

This week, we have refocussed on our new school vision and introduced our children to this term's value of 'Service'. As a reminder, our new school vision is as follows:

**Be the best that you can be.
Shine God's love for all to see.**

We challenge every member of our St Mary's family to be of service to others this half term in any way they can.

We kicked this off today by delivering a package to one of our neighbours who has been very poorly over the Christmas break. We hope that they get well soon and that the gifts and card from our School Ambassadors bring them joy.



In other news, this week we have welcomed Miss Matthews into our Year One team. Miss Matthews is currently training to become a teacher and will be working alongside Mrs Joslin and the Year One team throughout the whole of the Spring Term. We wish Miss Matthews all the best for her placement and look forward to working with her.

A quick reminder to Year Four parents that next week there is an information evening about the Hooke Court residential trip. This will take place in our school hall and will begin at 5:30pm on Thursday 11th January. This will take no more than forty-five minutes.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Mr Homer

KEY DATES

Tuesday 9th January

Year 1 - T@SM Church visit

Thursday 11th Jan - 5:30pm

Y4 Hook Court Info Evening (P)

Tuesday 16th January

In-Person Parents' Evening (P)

Thursday 18th January

Virtual Parents' Evening (P)

Tuesday 23rd January

Pantomime - Cinderella

Monday 29th January - 9am

Ash Class Assembly (P)

Tuesday 30th January

Year 2 - T@SM Church visit

Thursday 1st Feb - 5:15pm (P)

Story Night Reading Workshop

Tuesday 6th February

Safer Internet Day

Thurs 8th Feb - 8:45-09:15am

Curriculum Open Morning (P)

Thursday 8th February

Last Day of Term

Friday 9th February

INSET Day - school closed

Mon 12th to Fri 16th February

Half Term - school closed

Monday 19th February

First Day of Term

Tuesday 20th February

Year 3 - T@SM Church Visit

Tuesday 27th February

Year R & 4 - T@SM Church Visit

W/C Monday 4th March

St Mary's Book Week

(P) = Parents invited



CURRICULUM NEWS



This week, all of our children have started their new projects. Throughout the Spring Term, all children in years one to four will have a Geography project as their main focus - we call these Driver Projects. Alongside this, they will continue to explore the full breadth of the curriculum with links being made between the different subjects. Children in Reception will explore the full scope of the EYFS curriculum.

Today you should have received a knowledge organiser for your child's new Driver Project. The idea of the knowledge organiser is to communicate to you what your child will be learning and to enable you to talk around this at home with your child. For some, this may provide ideas of activities to do with your child or places to visit. Any discussion about these will help your child with their education.

If you have any questions about what your child is learning, how they are learning it and what you can do to further support them at home, please book a parent consultation with your child's class teacher when the booking system opens. We are hoping to open this to you early next week. Parent consultations will take place in person on Tuesday 16th January or virtually on Thursday 18th January.



Note from our School Association

Happy new year to you all. We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone for supporting St Mary's School Association throughout 2023 as we strive to raise much needed funds for our school.

In a couple of weekends time, on Saturday 20th January, we are hoping to gather a team of volunteers together to help build our new sheds. These will be sited next to the plastic shed in the Reception Learning Garden and will be used to store all of School Association's belongings.

If you are able to help us, please pop an email to:
schoolassociation@charminster.dorset.sch.uk



Our school attendance for last term was:

95.6%

We are committed to ensuring our children achieve the best possible outcomes and good school attendance is key to achieving this aim as it improves your child's chances of success in life. There is clear evidence of the link between good attendance and high achievement.

We would appreciate your help in ensuring that your child's attendance remains above 95% whenever possible. Before Christmas, I wrote to some families to make them aware of their child's attendance and to promote improvement. At the end of the Spring Term, I will be inviting some parents in for a meeting to discuss this further. We do understand that some absences are unavoidable, so this will be taken into account. Thank you for your support and understanding.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP SERVICE

In Collective Worship this half term, we will be focusing on our Christian value of Service.

This week, we have introduced 'Service' as a value as this is new to our school. Children have enjoyed thinking of ways in which they can be of service to others and have won awards for being a good friend, helping others with their work, supporting the staff and proactively tidying up without being asked to.

We look forward to exploring 'Service' more throughout this term.



This Week's Vision and Value Award Winners...





Are you concerned about a pupil?

If you are worried about a child,
you must share your concern without delay.



Mick Homer

Headteacher

**Designated
Safeguarding Lead**



Lisa Thornicroft

Teacher & SENDCo

**Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead**



Karen Bennett

Family Support Advisor

**Deputy Designated
Safeguarding Lead**

Our Safeguarding Governor is Reverend Pene Kennedy

If you are concerned about a child's welfare or worried they are being abused,
you can make a referral directly to:

Dorset's Children's Advice and Duty Service on 01305 228866

**In an emergency, or if you believe a child is at immediate risk of harm,
call the police on 999.**

Click or scan this QR code
to go straight to Dorset
Council's website:

